

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of January 30, 2007, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 2, 8, and 11-13 have been amended to clarify dependency. Previously withdrawn claims 12-14 have been rejoined. Claims 23-24, 33, and 36 are re-presented dependent claims 6, 7, 10, and 15 in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any respective intervening claims. Claims 25-32, 34-35, and 37-38 have been added. Claims 1, 5-7, 9-10, and 15-22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-4, 8, 11-14, and 23-38 remain in this application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 6-7, 10, and 15 stand objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by the prior art Figure 1E of Applicant's original Figures and specification. Without acquiescing to the rejection, Applicant has canceled claim 22 without prejudice or disclaimer in order to expedite prosecution of the present matter. Applicant reserves the right to pursue a continuation application directed to the subject matter of Applicant's original claim 22. As claim 22 is canceled, the present rejection is moot.

Claims 1-2, 8-9, 11, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bergh et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,446,800, hereinafter referred to as *Bergh*). Claims 1-5, 8-9, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art Figure 1E of Applicant's original Figures and specification in view of Temple et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,396,987, hereinafter referred to as *Temple*). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Without acquiescing to the rejections, Applicant has rewritten allowable dependent claims 6-7, 10, and 15 into independent form as claims 23-24, 33, and 36, respectively. As such, claims 23-24, 33, and 36 are allowable over the art of record. Claims 2-4, 8, and 11, which depend from claim 23, are allowable over the art of record for at least the same reasons as their ultimate base claim and further in view of the novel features recited therein. New claims 25-32, 34-35, and 37-38, which depend from claims 24, 33, and 36, respectively, are allowable over the art of record for at least the same reasons as their ultimate base claim and further in view of the novel features recited therein.

In response to the Restriction requirement of December 7, 2006, Applicant respectfully reserved the right to join the one or more features of dependent claims 12-14 should the present case proceed to Allowance. As amended, claims 12-14 are dependent claims from allowable independent claim 23. As such, Applicant respectfully requests to rejoin withdrawn dependent claims 12-14, which depend from claim 23, as they are allowable over the art of record for at least the same reasons as their ultimate base claim and further in view of the novel features recited therein.

CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, Applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same. Should the Examiner find that a telephonic or personal interview would expedite passage to issue of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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